

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MINNIE CALLENDER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Minnie Callender. Minnie was raised in South Carolina with her eleven siblings. She later moved to New York to pursue her college education and earned two Master's degrees in education and school administration. While also raising four children, she worked as an excellent English teacher and school principal. Minnie now volunteers in Middle Township as the Chair of the Township's Senior Citizen Advisory Council, where she spearheaded a plan for voter education seminars to assist seniors and other residents. She also stays active in the local chapter of the AARP and her congregation, Christ Gospel Church, where she leads a weekly bible study. God Bless Minnie and God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote number 341. On Roll Call vote number 341, I would have voted YES.

RECOGNIZING THE AFGHAN COALITION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Afghan Coalition for its outstanding service to the Afghan-American population in the San Francisco Bay Area, particularly during the humanitarian and immigration crisis related to the end of the 20-year U.S. military mission in Afghanistan.

The City of Fremont, partially within the 15th Congressional District, is the heart of the Afghan diaspora in America, the center of the largest Afghan American community in the United States. Many local families have struggled to help their loved ones escape Afghanistan this year as the Taliban resurged.

Founded in 1996, the Afghan Coalition long has been the voice for various under-served groups in the Afghan American community, providing a range of programs including, youth counseling and education, food banking, mental health advocacy, and direct assistance to immigrants and refugees who settle here after fleeing violence and instability.

In recent months, the coalition has hosted a series of town hall events with local elected officials, immigration and mental health experts, and other community leaders in order to keep the Afghan American community informed, comforted, and tied in with community resources during these difficult times.

Through the tireless service of Executive Director Rona Popal, the coalition's board of directors, and its staff and volunteers, the Afghan Coalition has supported and championed countless families in their time of need while also providing important public information to keep the Afghan people's plight front and center in our civic discourse. Their advocacy comes from a place of strength and love, and inspires us all to do more to help those who helped our troops during America's longest war.

I thank the Afghan Coalition for its continued work to improve lives in the Bay Area and around the world.

ANDREW MARTUCCI—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Andrew Martucci with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. After Andrew noticed that the sign in front of his local church was eroding and in danger of damage, he decided to build a retaining wall for the soil as his Eagle Scout Project. In addition to the wall, Andrew constructed a garden around the perimeter of the sign to help retain the soil. Andrew's Eagle Scout Project makes both his church and his community proud. This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Andrew and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING SPOJMIE NASIRI

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Afghan-American immigration attorney Spojmie Nasiri for her tireless and impactful work in assisting Afghans before and during the crisis of the Taliban's resurgence.

Spojmie was born in Paktia, Afghanistan, in 1975 and emigrated with her family first to Germany in 1981 and then to the United States in 1982, refugees from the Soviet-Afghan war. After growing up in Concord, California, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of

California, Davis in 1998 and her Juris Doctorate from Golden Gate University, School of Law in 2003.

Today, she is a member of the California State Bar admitted to practice before the California Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

She chose to practice immigration law because she is, as she puts it, "acutely aware of the pain endured by immigrants separated from their families." She has used her personal experience to more fully understand the challenges her clients face, and to help them navigate the complex immigration process. She has done substantial pro bono work, and in 2019 she founded the nonprofit We Have Hope Foundation to support Pashto speaking youth in Afghanistan and around the world by creating accessibility to world-class learning materials in Pashto.

Her life's work took on new dimensions in recent months as she has worked diligently from her Pleasanton, California office to help bring clients out of Afghanistan. Working by phone and email, she strove to coordinate efforts with the State Department to help people navigate the terrifying circumstances in Kabul to reach the airport and escape the country.

At the same time, Spojmie has worked with groups including the Afghan Coalition and the Jewish Community Relations Council to inform the public about Afghan refugees' legal and practical needs for resettlement, and how best to help in the months and years to come.

"As an immigrant, you have a passion, a drive that's unlike any other," Spojmie once wrote. "And you want to give back."

I thank Spojmie for continuing to give back so much in a time of such great need. She is a credit to her heritage, family, profession, and the 15th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harmony House in Springfield, MO, for their work in fighting domestic violence.

Harmony House has partnered with photographer Randy Bacon for the project, Standing Together: Portraits and Stories of Domestic Abuse. The project features life size portraits, videos, and stories of survivors and those who work to break the cycle of domestic violence. The goal of the project is to highlight that abuse is not just a personal issue, but one that affects the whole community. This project will also show the human side of these victims, so that people can understand that they are not just statistics. The exhibition was on display through October 29 at the Pool Art Center Gallery located in Springfield, Missouri on the campus of Drury University. It will now be on display through November at the Randy

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Bacon Studio in Springfield, Missouri. The hope is to show the exhibition regionally and ultimately to a national audience.

Harmony House was founded in 1976 and has since become the largest domestic violence shelter in Missouri, with 168 beds available. In that time, they have served more than 20,000 women, men and children who are victims of domestic violence. Their work in establishing a domestic violence hotline means that victims have access to resources for stopping abuse. Their goal is to provide temporary shelter to victims of domestic violence while providing resources to them on breaking the cycle.

Madam Speaker, Harmony House has spent the last 45 years fighting domestic violence and Standing Together is just the latest example of their important work in educating the community about this ever-present issue. I commend the hard work they are doing, and wish them all the best in their continued efforts.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN DENNIS MOORE

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Congressman Dennis Moore, who passed away November 2, 2021 at the age of 75. His long career in public service has left an extraordinary legacy that inspired many, including myself. My heart is with his family, his friends, and the community that he leaves behind.

As we mourn his loss, I'm reminded of the first time I met the Moores in person. I brought with me the pocket U.S. Constitution that I had carried with me all through law school—a pocket Constitution with an official label from the Office of Congressman Dennis Moore. After a good laugh about how on Earth I had managed to hold on to it all those years, he offered to sign my copy and gave me advice on my campaign. For his humor, his thoughtfulness, his dedication to public service (and his guitar playing skills), he will be missed.

Dennis was born in Anthony, Kansas on November 8, 1945 and he attended high school in Wichita. He continued his education in Kansas and received his bachelors' degree in Law at the University of Kansas and was awarded his J.D. from the Washburn University School of Law.

Even before serving as Congressman, Dennis demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service at a local and national level. He was a captain in the United States Army intelligence corps and served in the United States Army Reserve from 1970 to 1973. He also served as Johnson County District Attorney for over a decade. While he was District Attorney, he never lost a jury trial he argued and was instrumental in the founding of SafeHome, a refuge for battered women. In the late 90s, Dennis was elected to the Board of Trustees of Johnson County Community College.

In 1998, after more than two decades of service in other roles, Dennis threw his hat in the ring to serve the Third District of Kansas

in Congress. Although the Third District had not elected a Democrat for over 40 years before that, Dennis won the election against a Republican incumbent with over 52 percent of the vote. Then he won again in 2000, becoming the first Democrat since 1914 to win reelection in the Third District of Kansas. For over a decade, Dennis served in Congress, known for civility and a strong presence in the communities he served. He retired from Congress in 2011 after completing his sixth term.

Dennis served as a Member of Congress during a uniquely fraught period between 1999 and 2011, during which Congress worked to respond to difficult national traumas such as the financial crisis of 2008. Even as Congress and the nation became increasingly polarized during this period, Dennis prioritized civility and bipartisanship to find solutions that would help average Americans. As Chair of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee on the House Financial Services Committee, Dennis held hearings on the impact of the 2008 financial crisis across the country. He also helped to produce the final version of the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010 to respond to the financial crisis and to help America recover.

Dennis had a traditional, common-sense approach to politics and worked hard to build consensus both within his party and across the aisle. When he first took office, Dennis was a member of a bipartisan group called the Center Aisle Caucus where Republicans and Democrats would come together at least once a month to improve cooperation and communication between the two parties. Within his party, he was a proud member of both the Blue Dog Coalition and the New Democrat Coalition, both of which focused on fiscal responsibility and promoting economic growth. Even though he was a pillar of centrism in Congress, he was never afraid to stand up for his values such as supporting women's reproductive rights and championing environmental activism at a time when climate denial was high.

During his tenure as Representative, Dennis sought common-sense solutions on a number of issues that impacted his constituents. These issues included but were not limited to delivering tax relief for middle class families, addressing global warming, and investing in local needs such as transportation, flood control infrastructure, and social services. Among his many accomplishments in Congress, Dennis said that he was most proud of leading successful efforts to improve benefits for our military during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After leaving Capitol Hill in 2012, Dennis continued to work as an advocate for causes close to his heart, such as increased funding for Alzheimer's research, education, and support. He came back to the Hill in 2014 to provide personal testimony on the burden that Alzheimer's can place on the health care system, families, and the federal budget. In that hearing, Dennis expressed a belief in a Congress that could come together and solve problems. "I really think we need to find those areas where we can and should find agreement," he said. "Good people on both sides work together, and there truly are good people on both sides." His optimism, practicality, and hope for bipartisanship were all trademarks of the leader that he was.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of former Congressman Dennis Moore.

Dennis was a dedicated, gracious, and principled leader who will be remembered for his service to the Third District and the state of Kansas. To say he left big shoes to fill is an understatement—he leaves a legacy of fighting tirelessly for what is good and right and decent for the people he represented.

RECOGNIZING ADRIAN KINSELLA

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Adrian Kinsella and his family for their ongoing commitment to our Afghan allies. Adrian has been on the actual and proverbial front lines of this fight for over a decade, first as a Marine, then as a friend.

While deployed with the Marine Corps in Afghanistan, Adrian met and worked with a man named Mohammad, who was serving as his platoon's translator. They quickly gained a mutual respect for each other, which evolved into a friendship. When Adrian came home from Afghanistan, he knew that Mohammad's service with United States forces made him a target for violence, and his family had already suffered disastrous consequences.

To protect Mohammad, Adrian wanted Mohammad to immigrate to the United States. With Adrian's help, Mohammad arrived in 2014. Adrian then turned his attention to Mohammad's family and focused on them until they were safe as well. He did all of this while continuing his service in the Marine Corps, attending law school at University of California, Berkeley, and serving as a Judge Advocate General before returning to Berkeley for his LL.M. Adrian worked from the halls of his law school, to the non-profit group International Refugee Assistance Project, and even the set of John Oliver's TV show to try to raise awareness about the plight of our Afghan allies and their families. He's been a reliable resource for my team and me, most recently participating in a roundtable I hosted to gather information about what the community was experiencing as the situation in Afghanistan unfolded. He also coordinated with other veterans, strategizing ways to get our allies out and to safety.

Now, as he serves as an Assistant United States Attorney, he, his wife Kate, an Army veteran herself and their daughter all continue working to serve our Afghan allies arriving in the United States. They're frequently waiting at their local airport with welcome signs for newly arriving families. They also collect and deliver household items that these families need to start their new lives comfortably in the United States.

Adrian and Kate are truly the best of us. They stepped up to serve in our military when we needed them, and they continue to give back to our allies who assisted in those fights. They are constantly finding ways to serve our country and their community, and I am grateful.

JACOB SCHAAD, JR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last week, I had the pleasure of attending Jacob Schaad, Jr.'s 100th birthday party. Jacob started his career in journalism as a copy boy while in the US Army Air Corps in 1939 and during World War II. After his time in the military, he became a newspaperman for the Cape May County Gazette. Over the years, Jacob's writing has appeared in many publications, including the Philadelphia Bulletin, The Inquirer, The Press of Atlantic City, and The Gazette. As well as being a veteran journalist, Jacob also wrote and published books, and is currently working on another book, which will be a tribute to doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals. Jacob now lives with his son, Mark, in the Del Haven section of Middle Township. God Bless Jacob and God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to vote on H.R. 5763.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 339.

HONORING RICHARD TRUMKA

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 441, a former labor lawyer, and current co-chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus, I rise today to honor Richard Trumka's life, work, and unwavering commitment to America's workers.

The son of Pennsylvania coal miners, Trumka was a relentless and outspoken advocate for the rights of all workers. While he was a giant in the fight for workers' rights, he was also a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. My thoughts remain with his family and all those who knew and loved him.

As President of the AFL-CIO, Richard Trumka fought for justice. He helped make the labor movement more inclusive, standing with immigrant and undocumented workers and calling out racism.

I was proud to work with Richard Trumka throughout my time in Congress, and most recently on the U.S. Citizenship Act. He understood that our immigration system enables employers to exploit migrant workers with impunity and undermine the rights of all workers. He knew that building power and transforming the lives of working people would require bold, structural changes to our nation's immigration and labor laws.

From his time at the Mineworkers to his last days leading the AFL-CIO, Trumka created a legacy of championing labor. He made tangible changes that improved the lives of working families, enabling more people to work in safer conditions and receive better pay and benefits.

I will miss Richard Trumka, as will so many who worked with him and countless others whose lives were made better by his passion and leadership. I'm deeply proud to have had the honor of calling him my friend. And I am confident that his memory will live on in the progress he made for workers across America.

LEGION RIDERS**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, since their charter, the American Legion Post 352 at Somers Point has been supporting Veterans from all branches of the armed forces throughout South Jersey. One of the fastest-growing programs offered by the American Legion is the Legion Riders. The Legion Riders' mission is to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by their devotion to mutual helpfulness. This group rides their bikes to raise money for organizations such as VA hospitals, Veterans Relief, military funerals, and other veteran events. The Legion Riders honor the veterans of South Jersey and pay their respect for all past military sacrifices through these bike rides. God Bless the Legion Riders and God Bless America.

HONORING HUMBERTO LUNA**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Humberto Luna.

Describing Humberto Luna is talking about perseverance, dedication, passion, optimism, simplicity and good humor, same that has always characterized him throughout his brilliant career not only as a radio host, but also as an actor and television host.

This talented Zacatecano, from a very young age, showed great concerns about the Radio. He graduated from La National School of Voice Talents of Mexico, obtaining their Certificate of Aptitude granted by the Secretary of Public Education through the General Directorate of Audiovisual Education as Announcer, Chronicler and News Commentator in accordance with articles 84, 85 and 86 of the Federal Law on Radio and TV.

And in 1970 he arrived in Los Angeles California full of illusions to follow his passion for Radio that has led him without a doubt to become one of the most popular Personalities in Southern California for imposing his own creative brand and staying on the air in the audience's liking for more than four decades on various radio stations in the American Union.

As a star of radio entertainment, he has also participated in the magical world of cin-

ema, with 27 films, on Television he co-presented on "Hablemos de Cine" one of the most successful programs of the Cadena Univisión, on Telemundo he was the host of his own Show "La Hora Lunatica" televised internationally.

And on October 12, 1990, his name was recorded for posterity on the walk of fame of Hollywood making him the first hispanic announcer to obtain one of the privileged stars that the city awards to foreign personalities.

There are many recognitions that for almost half a century of delivery have been granted, in 1991 the Hispanic Business Magazine named him "One of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in United States" and is currently on the air on an important radio network.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Humberto Luna.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATIE FORDHAM**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katie Fordham.

Katie has lived with Parkinson's Disease for the past two years, but she has not let it slow her down.

This weekend, she has planned a community walk to raise money to beat Parkinson's.

On top of that, Katie is the wife of Pastor Sam Fordham of Oak Bowery Baptist Church. This year, Oak Bowery Baptist and the surrounding communities were devastated by tornadoes on March 25th.

Katie worked tirelessly to organize volunteers, coordinate meals, source furniture and find tradesmen from Ochattee to Wellington to Pleasant Valley. She spent countless hours helping victims and ensuring people had what they needed.

She established a Facebook page so folks could post their needs and collected gift cards from major businesses to distribute to tornado victims. Seven months later, she is still coordinating and helping victims connect with resources.

Katie home schools her three children. Their family enjoys camping. She is known for baking her huge cinnamon rolls.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Katie Fordham for her commitment to her church, her community and to beating Parkinson's. We are behind Katie.

CHURCH-BY-THE-BAY**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize a small congregation in Gallopway, South Jersey—Church by the Bay. Church-by-the-Bay is led by Pastor Lou Strugala and what this small congregation has accomplished in a short period of time is extraordinary. Pastor Lou, you have not only been a leader at the church community—Pastor Lou has been a leader for the entire community. The Church-by-the-Bay congregation

and Pastor Lou exemplify the meaning of servant leadership, and stewardship. Pastor Lou adheres to his church's mission of, "taking God's love outside the walls and into the community." Pastor Lou and his congregation worships God by serving the most vulnerable in the community. God bless Pastor Lou, God bless the congregation, and God bless America.

RECOGNIZING **EDILBERTO CANSECO** AS MY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Oceanside resident and Vista Family Health Center Physician Assistant, Edilberto Canseco, for my October Constituent of the Month. Edilberto was born in Oaxaca, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States in 1991 at the age of three. Growing up, Edilberto's family emphasized the value of hard work and the importance of serving others. Embodying the American Dream, Edilberto took these lessons and his passion for science and completed an Emergency Medical Technician School Program at Palomar College. He then obtained a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Cal State University San Marcos and graduated with a Master's in Medical Science from Stanford's School of Medicine Primary Care Program.

During his time at Palomar Community College, Edilberto participated in the school's dedicated program to inspire Latino students like himself, and he carried those lessons on throughout his life. Years later, Edilberto found himself in one of the most challenging times of his academic career as only one of three Latino students in a cohort of 50 working towards their Master's degree at Stanford. Despite the challenges, Edilberto persisted and used the lessons he learned from the support programs at Palomar College to be successful. Seeking to honor the values his parents instilled in him and pay the lessons learned forward, Edilberto dedicated his career to working within the Latino community and helping others.

Now in his fourth year at Vista Family Health Center as a Physician Associate in primary care, Edilberto tirelessly works on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. He sees himself in his patients and understands the hesitancy within the Latino community to get vaccinated, but he works diligently to promote vaccinations and provides each patient with high quality, culturally relevant, and linguistically appropriate care. As a dedicated member of his community, Edilberto is able to fulfill his passion of helping others and being a part of the solution amid the pandemic.

Following Hispanic Heritage Month, I am proud to continue lifting up Latino voices like Edilberto Canseco who contribute to our unique and diverse district. I'm so grateful for CA-49 residents who dedicate their lives to the betterment of our residents, especially during this pandemic, and I'm proud to honor Edilberto Canseco as my October Constituent of the Month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present in Washington, D.C. to vote on Monday, November 1, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call no. 340, and YEA on Roll Call no. 341.

SIDNEY PATTERSON

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Sidney Patterson with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. For his Eagle Scout Project, Sidney constructed a dual compost bin and garden area that will provide vegetables to Veterans who utilize Enphront's services. As well as providing vegetables to Veterans, this garden area will also donate the extra produce to the local Food Bank. This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have the opportunity to recognize his dedication to the South Jersey community. God Bless Sidney and God Bless America.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN EDWARD MCCLURE

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of John Edward McClure. A true pioneer in what is considered the final frontier, John led the business development team that brought the ON-STAR automobile safety and communication system to reality. Through his vision for the practical and purposeful application of what was then an emerging technology, thousands of lives have been saved and countless motorists have been kept safe thanks to this technology.

John and his team helped exploit the nascent Internet of Things, or how machines talk to machines, to create ON STAR, one of the first communication systems to exploit this technology. ON STAR achieved its goals of providing security, enhancing productivity, and monitoring vehicle operation and maintenance for motorists.

A true entrepreneur, John started numerous companies including an asset tracking company using GPS and other satellite technologies to monitor cargo and other materials in transit. Mr. McClure's quest to constantly push the boundaries of technology led him to focus on helping youth acquire a thirst for discovery. He mentored individuals and led student groups sharing his mantra that there "are no Can't Dos in life, only Can Dos!"

Combining his passion for aerospace and education, he introduced the NASA CubeSat initiative to a group of Nebraska middle- and

high-school students. He helped pair them with undergraduate mentors from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Together the team proposed an experiment that NASA has accepted for a future mission to orbit earth. Known as the Big Red Satellite Team, this group will carry on John's mission to have this historic-first CubeSat designed and built in Nebraska. The team will test cutting edge solar cell technology.

Always looking beyond the horizon, John's ultimate goal is for the Big Red Satellite project to serve as a catalyst for the development of STEM careers and ultimately help build an aerospace industry in Nebraska. An accomplished fixed wing and hot air balloon pilot, John never stopped reaching for the stars. His words and his actions clearly communicated his primary mission: create opportunities that give kids an opportunity to succeed.

John McClure passed away September 15, 2021. I offer my condolences to his entire family. John's many achievements will continue to impact Nebraska well into the future. A future that John sought to improve by helping young students discover their abilities and believe that anything is possible. His life's work has helped people in every state of this union, and his legacy of encouraging others to make their dreams a reality will be carried on by those he inspired.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOT SPRINGS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation.

The Hot Springs Area Community Foundation is celebrating its 30th year of giving. This foundation was started when 15 local community members wanted to improve their community; now, it is one of twenty-nine affiliates of the Arkansas Community Foundation operating in the top tier of affiliates. Since its inception in 1991, the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation has given out over \$17 million in grants to organizations in the greater Hot Springs area. In 2021 alone, the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation has awarded just under \$250,000 to those in need.

These grant dollars have allowed the community to combat many issues, including food insecurity and other health and poverty-related problems. In addition to food and health issues, the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation is addressing the issue of illiteracy in our area. As part of the statewide Grade-Level Reading initiative, the Foundation works with community leaders, parents, and educators to have children reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation, its current and former board members, and those donors who have allowed it to serve the community for the last 30 years.

RECOGNITION OF THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS' 2020 CONGRESSIONAL VETERANS COMMENDATION RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the five recipients of the 26th District of Texas' 2020 Congressional Veterans Commendation. These men have faithfully served this Nation in both their military and civilian lives, and it is my great privilege to publicly recognize their significant contributions.

Mr. Paul Bastiach of Oak Point served in the U.S. Air Force for twenty-five years, fast as a Precision Measurement Equipment Specialist and later as the Commandant of the Airman Leadership School. Mr. Bastiach was recognized as the School's Flight Chief of the Year in 2000, and was awarded four Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, and the Air Force Achievement Medal over the course of his tenure in the armed forces. In 2004, the Air Force further honored Mr. Bastiach with the Air Force Productivity Award, denoting an individual who has made such substantial improvements in productivity that the Air Force saved over \$1 million. Following his military career, Mr. Bastiach professionally served his fellow veterans as the Denton County Veteran Service Officer, as President of the Veterans County Service Officer Association of Texas (VCSOAT), and as the North Texas Region Director of VSOAT. His work has led to significant improvements to the Denton County VA's facilities, an increase of over \$200 million in gross benefits to Denton County Veterans, and the foundation of both the Veterans Community Navigator Program and the Denton County Veterans Coalition (DCVC). He currently serves as DCVC's Vice President and as the co-planner for the County's annual Veteran's Day Event.

Mr. Richard Cook of Double Oak served in the U.S. Navy from 1950 to 1971, in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. During the Korean War, Mr. Cook was assigned to the USS *Missouri*, the flagship of the Seventh Fleet, which played a pivotal role in multiple offensive maneuvers as part of the famed Task Force 77. Mr. Cook was promoted to the highest enlisted rank of Master Chief and was later commissioned as a Lieutenant. After 21 years on active duty, he transferred into the Naval Reserve, serving an additional ten years. Mr. Cook's service was recognized with the UN Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. After leaving his military career, Mr. Cook devoted his time and attention to serving his local community of Double Oak. He was first elected to the Town Council in 1994 and was then appointed Mayor in 1995. The citizens of Double Oak re-elected Mr. Cook as Mayor twice. In 2010, he was appointed as Mayor Emeritus. Sadly, Mr. Cook passed away on October 2, 2021. My condolences to his family and the community of Double Oak as we reflect upon his military service and recognize his civic accomplishments.

Mr. Jacob Schick of Frisco enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps one month after the 9/11

terrorist attacks, and fought as a member of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Corps Regiment, Bravo Company during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, Mr. Schick's Humvee struck an improvised explosive device, resulting in the loss of his left leg and severe damage to his left arm. The U.S. Marine Corps recognized his sacrifice with the awarding of the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal. Mr. Schick continued to serve as an active duty servicemember until he was medically discharged in 2011, having attained the rank of Corporal. Mr. Schick continued to serve his former comrades in arms at the Center for Brain Health and the Brain Performance Institute, where he conducted research into alleviating Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post Traumatic Stress. In addition, he was instrumental in founding the non-profit "22 Kill" to bring public awareness to the alarming rate of veteran suicides and he currently serves as CEO of the "One Tribe Foundation," which raises funds and provides support programs to assist veterans and first responders and their families.

Mr. Dennis Sheridan of Trophy Club was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1969. During the Vietnam War, Mr. Sheridan was first assigned to Bravo Company and then to 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company as platoon leader. His outstanding command of 2nd Platoon was noted and he was designated as the Executive Officer and later Commanding Officer of Alpha Company. The U.S. Army recognized his service with the Combat Infantry Badge, the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star with V Device, and the Bronze Star with One Oak Leaf. Mr. Sheridan rose to the rank of captain by the end of his active duty in 1972. Subsequent to his military career, Mr. Sheridan served as a Commissioner and Chair of the Trophy Club Planning and Zoning Commission, and he currently serves as a Town Councilman, and actively volunteers for numerous veterans' organizations in the DFW metroplex.

Finally, Mr. Danny Weakley of Little Elm served in the armed forces for over two decades as a member of the U.S. Army's 89th Military Police Brigade. Mr. Weakley's service included tours in Somalia, Qatar, and Iraq, and merited him two Bronze Star Medals, three counts of the Meritorious Service Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, a GWOT Service Medal, a GWOT Expeditionary Medal, three Iraq Campaign Medals, and the Combat Action Badge. Mr. Weakley retired in 2008, having attained the rank of Master Sergeant. A graduate of Little Elm's Fire, Police and Government Academy, he volunteers with multiple Little Elm events and he spearheaded new civic programs including Little Elm's Veteran's Ruck March and the Honor Park Cleanup.

I am truly privileged to thank all five of our recipients for their honorable service in the Armed Forces and their whole-hearted dedication to their communities following their military careers. Their leadership, devotion, and sacrifice truly exemplify the finest traditions of the United States Military. I join the friends, families, and communities of these recipients in expressing sincere appreciation and congratulating them on their commendation.

NATALE CONSTANTINO—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Nate Costantino with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Nate had noticed the Gilda's Club organization in Northfield lacked a recreational area for the youth who utilized the building. For his Eagle Scout Project, Nate addressed this issue and constructed a playground area in the back of the Gilda's Club building. This playground will be enjoyed by Northfield residents for years to come. This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Nate and God Bless America.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE ARTHUR ZINK

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Charlie Arthur Zink, who passed away on June 20, 2021.

On March 3, 2006, Charlie was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Eric and Alyssa Zink. Charlie was a vibrant young child with so many passions in life. Playing the video game Planet Coaster, he pursued his dream of becoming a world-renowned roller-coaster designer. As part of his summer RV travel plans, he planned to visit Cedar Point and other amusement parks along the way to ride the steepest, fastest and craziest coasters in the world.

Charlie was a rising 10th grader at Bedford High School. Inspired by many Bedford educators, Charlie was looking forward to his new classes in the fall. He was proud to work at his family's restaurant, the Puritan Backroom, and he represented the fifth generation to bus tables and work in the kitchen.

Charlie was a great athlete but loved basketball more than anything. He loved to play pickup with his siblings in the backyard under the lights, and he played as part of many teams over his short career.

Charlie is survived by his parents, three siblings, and two pets whom he loved dearly: 13-year-old Annie, 11-year-old Eva, 8-year-old Oliver, Wilson the dog, and Hazel the cat. Charlie's uncle, Mr. Chris Pappas, represents New Hampshire's first district and loved his first nephew with all his heart. Alongside Mr. Pappas and his family, we join them in honoring the wonderful and inspiring life of Charles Zink.

Charlie will also be remembered for being a fiercely loyal companion, a son, sibling, and friend. We will never forget his curiosity and love for adventure, memories that will continue to inspire everyone who knew him.

CELEBRATING THE ASIA PACIFIC
CULTURAL CENTER'S 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Tacoma, Washington.

E Pluribus Unum. Out of many, one.

That motto, the motto of our Nation, reflects a truth embodied by the Asia Pacific Cultural Center for the last 25 years—that our region's amazing diversity is a blessing. That the people and cultures that have come from so many places should be celebrated. And, importantly, that the celebration of that diversity can be a force for uniting us.

Since 1996 the Asia Pacific Cultural Center has served as that unifying force in our region—a center of cultural exchange. It has provided programs to support, celebrate, and honor the Asian and Pacific Islander people. It has given us all an opportunity to celebrate art, education, culture, and cuisine—some of the core elements of everyday lives that have been challenged over the course of the last couple of years. It has brought us together.

Through it all, over the last quarter of a century, the APCC has not only endured—it has thrived. Over the years, so many of us have learned so much from APCC programs. Personally, I have participated in traditional ceremonies at Samoan Cultural Days and at the Korean Chuseok Festival. I got to join with my youngest daughter in making dumplings (I was terrible at it, but my kiddo was terrific). I've joined the APCC in prayer and healing after tragic moments in our country. And I've joined them in great joy and celebration. And I know I'm not alone. Indeed, by hosting cultural events and activities, sponsoring youth programs, and conducting outstanding outreach, the Asia Pacific Cultural Center has become a pillar of our community.

Through its work, the APCC helps us live up to a vision laid out by Gandhi when he said, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed." He said, "I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible." The Asia Pacific Cultural Center has brought the cultures of 47 countries into our home. The APCC has made our community stronger.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the organization's tremendous leadership, including Executive Director Lua Pritchard, President and Founder Patsy Surh O'Connell, the board, and every person in our community that has supported their extraordinary work. It matters.

As a representative for our region in our Nation's capital, I want to thank the APCC for its partnership and congratulate the organization for 25 years of service and dedication to our community. I look forward to working with the Asia Pacific Cultural Center for years to come.

It is an honor to represent them and our region.

BOX-IT FITNESS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, our small business community in South Jersey was heavily impacted by the global pandemic, just as many other small businesses were across the nation. However, one local business serving Cape May County made it through the pandemic and has recently expanded with a second location. Jeff and Courtney Wallace, owners of Box-It Fitness, continue to spread health and wellness across Cape May County. Box-It Fitness offers a diverse selection of boxing and fitness classes every day. Congratulations to Jeff and Courtney on the grand opening of the second Box-It Fitness location. God bless Jeff and Courtney and God bless America.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN
VETERANS COLIN POWELL POST
910

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 910, named for Colin Powell, in the City of Detroit in Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

The members of the Colin Powell Post came together with a purpose, to help the veterans and their families in creating a better quality of life and to make a positive change in the community. Post 910 has focused its mission on assisting homeless veterans across Detroit and Wayne County. They have hosted countless events in support of those who have served our country in the military. They have regularly offered a listening ear and fellowship to veteran patients at John Dingell Veterans Administration Hospital in Detroit.

In addition to its charitable work, Post 910 has worked to strengthen its ties to local high school Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs. They have recognized ROTC students' achievements at schools across Detroit. Still, the Post 910 members devote countless hours to community events, participating in local parades and events honoring the service of our veterans. They dedicate their time all year round to giving back to the community by hosting holiday toy drives for local children, Thanksgiving meals for those in need, and so much more.

Please join me in recognizing Detroit's Colin Powell AMVETS Post 910 for their many outstanding contributions to the communities of Detroit and 13th District Strong.

RETIREMENT OF ANA B. HINO-
JOSA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TRADE REMEDY AND LAW EN-
FORCEMENT, OFFICE OF
TRADE—CUSTOMS AND BORDER
PROTECTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I rise along with my colleagues, Rep. BILL PASCRELL and Rep. DAN KILDEE, to commemorate the successful federal career of Ana Hinojosa, Executive Director for Trade Remedy and Law Enforcement at Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Trade. Ms. Hinojosa retires after more than 33 years of service at CBP.

As Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, we would like to commend Ms. Hinojosa on her efforts to support and lead CBP's trade functions. She has served in many trade-related roles in her time at CBP, including at the World Customs Organization (WCO), where she led the directorate that is responsible for assisting WCO Members in implementing effective and efficient controls, ensuring fair and accurate revenue collection, and protecting society by intercepting and suppressing illicit and criminal activities.

Ms. Hinojosa has also played an instrumental role in CBP's enforcement of the prohibition on the importation of goods made with forced labor. As Members who worked hard to close the "consumptive demand" loophole in the import ban in 2016, we recognize that the key to the effectiveness of the improved law would be strong enforcement.

Ms. Hinojosa has been critical in leading CBP's efforts in this regard. During numerous congressional briefings, Ms. Hinojosa demonstrated her work ethic and passion for this issue, supporting enforcement on a wide array of products from a diverse group of countries. While much more remains to be done on forced labor, we applaud Ms. Hinojosa's work to dramatically expand and improve CBP's enforcement efforts on this critically important issue.

Ms. Hinojosa was also a Past President of Executive Women in Government, which is an organization that focuses on helping women in middle- to upper-level management positions reach Executive level positions in the U.S. Government.

We wish to congratulate Ms. Hinojosa on her retirement and express of gratitude for her many years of public service, particularly her commitment to enforcing the prohibition of forced labor imports. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

ZACHARY WHITELEY—EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Zachary Whiteley with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. One day, Zachary noticed that the

entry way to Christ Episcopal Church's community meeting room was crowded with books and other items. So, with this in mind, for his Eagle Scout Project he decided to organize and renovate the entryway. Zachary made the entryway more welcoming by discarding of all the clutter, removing the bookshelves, and painting the area. This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have the opportunity to recognize him for his service to both his church community and the entire South Jersey community. God Bless Zachary and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

HON. ANTONIO DELGADO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). On this day 60 years ago, when concurrent compact legislation ratified by Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Congress became law, the DRBC was born.

It was a seminal moment in water resource management: it marked the first time that the federal government and a consortium of states formed a regional body to establish a coordinated approach to manage a river system. The DRBC—made up of the four governors and a senior U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official—work collectively to protect the basin's water quality and supply allocation, address droughts and flooding, and ensure that future generations can enjoy all that the river has to offer.

The Delaware River is the longest undammed river in the U.S. east of the Mississippi. It provides drinking water for more than 17 million Americans. Its watershed generates \$25 billion in annual economic activity and contributes \$21 billion worth of ecosystem goods and services each year. It's critically important that we protect this precious resource.

That's why I started the first-ever Congressional Delaware River Watershed Caucus with my colleague, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania. Our caucus supports conservation efforts for the basin and raises the profile of this ecological gem and economic driver. I look forward to continuing to work with the DRBC on our shared goals, and I congratulate the Commission on 60 years of outstanding work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 341.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to appoint all members of the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment (Board), except when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to a chancery. The Board issues special exceptions, or variances, to the regulations issued by the D.C. Zoning Commission (Commission). This bill does not alter the authority of the Board.

Like every other jurisdiction in the United States, the District should be free to set its own local land-use policies. As the District continues to contend with rapid population growth and economic development, it is more important than ever that the members of the Board are accountable to District residents and local elected officials.

Under current law, in general, the Board consists of a representative each from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Commission, each of whom may be a federal official, and three mayoral appointees, subject to D.C. Council approval. The Board has no authority over federal property.

Under current law, when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to the location, expansion or replacement of a chancery, the Board consists of the Executive Director of NCPC, the Director of the National Park Service, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, as designated by the President, and the three mayoral appointees. This bill does not change this composition.

This is an important step to recognize and increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

JOSEPH HANNAGAN, JR.—SALEM COUNTY DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN 2021

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, we, in South Jersey, cherish our active military and veteran community. Their sacrifices do not go unnoticed, and their continued work is forever appreciated. Veterans, like Joseph Hannagan, Jr., embody the principle of Semper Fidelis. He has dedicated the last 10 years of his life to serving veterans in Salem County. Semper Fidelis means "always faithful," and Joseph has been nothing but faithful to the Military and Veteran community. Congratulations, Joseph, on becoming Salem County's Distinguished Citizen, he certainly deserves it. God bless Joseph and God bless America.

IN GRATITUDE TO FADWA HAMMOUD

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Fadwa Hammoud, who made history on October 5, 2021, becoming the first Arab American woman to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Brown v. Davenport*, as the Solicitor General of Michigan. Ms. Hammoud is a true trailblazer, and we are so proud of her work and career as a Michigander.

Prior to her role as Solicitor General of Michigan, Ms. Hammoud clerked for the Honorable Judge George Steeh on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She also served as an assistant prosecuting attorney at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Under Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy, Ms. Hammoud established the Business Protection Unit and prosecuted cases involving criminal enterprises, homicides, financial crimes, and identity thefts.

On February 18, 2019, Ms. Hammoud took the oath of office to be sworn in as the first Solicitor General of Michigan making history. In her role, she oversaw the investigation related to the Flint Water Crisis and many other important cases.

On October 5, Ms. Hammoud argued on behalf of Petitioner Brown that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit should have applied the precedent established by *Chapman v. California* in a case involving habeas corpus.

Fighting for all Michiganders and delivering results, Ms. Hammoud exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. Her work is inspiring and an amazing example for women in Michigan and across the country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the outstanding contributions Ms. Hammoud has made to the Michigan community and our country at large.

CELEBRATING VETERANS

HON. PETER MEIJER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's veterans and help shine a light on the struggles they continue to face after returning home from their service in uniform. I want to thank my colleague from Michigan for giving us this opportunity to speak here today.

With Veterans Day just around the corner, it is important that all Americans take time to reflect on the sacrifices these courageous men and women, and their families, have made for the United States. This is a solemn occasion when we come together as a country to appreciate the selfless service and celebrate the bravery of these heroes.

I have had many conversations with veterans in my district about the challenges they continue to face once they have returned home. Many have been longstanding for generations: the physical and emotional wounds

of combat, obstacles in accessing VA care and benefits, and debilitating health conditions resulting from exposure to burn pits and other toxic hazards.

But recently, there has been an increased call to address other, less talked about challenges, including the mental health impacts of processing what we all witnessed in Afghanistan over the last few months.

I am proud to have joined my colleagues in leading several bipartisan pieces of legislation to help address some of these challenges, but there is much more to be done. We have an urgent moral obligation to take care of the men and women who have served and sacrificed to defend our nation, and I am committed to continuing this crucial work with my colleagues here in Congress.

Today, I want to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of our nation's veterans, and I encourage all Americans to reach out to veterans in their life and let them know that they are valued and that they are not alone. We will never forget those who have answered the call to serve this country in uniform, and we honor them all here today.